

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION OR MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

June 29, 2006

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the County of San Diego is proposing to adopt Negative Declaration(s) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act for the following project(s). The proposed Negative Declaration(s) can be reviewed on the World Wide Web at http://www.sdcountry.ca.gov/dplu/ceqa_public_review.html, at the Department of Planning and Land Use (DPLU), Project Processing Counter, 5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B, San Diego, California 92123 and the public library(ies) listed below. Comments on these proposed Negative Declaration(s) must be sent to the DPLU address listed above and should reference the project number and name.

GPA 06-008, LOG NO. 06-00-002; COUNTY NOISE ELEMENT UPDATE. The project proposes a General Plan Amendment to the County Noise Element. The General Plan Amendment would serve to clarify language contained within the existing Noise Element Policy 4b pertaining to interior and exterior noise standards for noise sensitive land uses. The proposed language adds specificity to the County's interpretation of the Noise Element as it applies to land use projects. The update to the Noise Element provides more well-defined guidance for the protection of noise sensitive land uses, providing improved direction to staff and County clients. The primary purpose of the Noise Element update is to better identify exterior noise sensitive areas. The Noise Element update provides for no change to the interior or exterior noise limits. Updates to the General Plan Noise Element would not affect the County Noise Ordinance which pertains mainly to on-site generated noise sources. This is the first amendment to the County Noise Element for the year 2006.

The intent of the Policy 4b of the County Noise Element is to protect public health and welfare by requiring standards for impacts from ambient noise conditions above exterior Community Noise Equivalent Levels (CNEL) of 60 decibels (dB[A]) and/or interior CNEL above 45 dB(A). The County of San Diego General Plan, Noise Element, Policy 4b addresses noise sensitive uses and requires an acoustical study to be prepared for any use that may expose noise sensitive areas to noise in excess of a CNEL of 60 dB(A). Moreover, if the project is excess of CNEL 60 dB(A), modifications must be made to project to reduce noise levels. Noise sensitive uses include residences, hospitals, schools, libraries or a similar facility where quiet is an important attribute.

The project is located within the County of San Diego is located in Southern California bordered on the west by the Pacific Ocean, to the east by Imperial County, to the north by Orange and Riverside Counties, and to the south by Mexico. The project covers all unincorporated portions of the County of San Diego over which the County has land use jurisdiction. Comments on this proposed Negative Declaration must be received no later than July 28, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. (a 30-day public review period). This proposed Negative Declaration can also be reviewed at the following library branches: Alpine, Bonita, Borrego Springs, Campo, Casa de Oro, Crest, Descanso, Fallbrook, Jacumba, Julian, Lakeside, Pine Valley, Potrero, Ramona, Rancho San Diego, Rancho Santa Fe, Spring Valley and Valley Center. For additional information, please contact Joseph Farace at (858) 694-3690 or by e-mail at joseph.farace@sdcounty.ca.gov.

ND06-06\0600002-NOT;jcr